



Katie despaired about finding a school which could address her son's needs. And then she found Chickerell Primary Academy

Katie and Kyle have two children at Chickerell Primary Academy. Roman is six and Indy, four.

Who can help?

Katie and Kyle had only recently moved to the Weymouth area when it was time to enroll Roman in school, and they began trying to find a suitable setting for him. Roman has a range of additional needs, including global development delay and autism, so they needed a school which could address those issues.

Last resort

"We were torn between a specialist provision and mainstream options but as Roman didn't have eligibility for an EHCP we approached various mainstream schools. Virtually all said that they did not have the resources to deal with his range of needs so when friends whose children attended Chickerell Academy suggested we apply, we did so, as we were running out of ideas."

Fantastic support

Although Roman is still undergoing assessment of eligibility for an EHCP, the school was more than happy to make accommodation for his immediate needs, including a dedicated 1-1 teaching assistant and restricted hours. "The level of support has been

fantastic," Katie says. "All the staff are fully invested in Roman's welfare and take their cue from what he needs, and his interests, so that he is completely comfortable with them."

Encouragement to achieve

Katie and Kyle's daughter, Indy, currently attends Chickerell Nursery School and as she also shows signs of autism spectrum, with the full support of the school, is delaying the transition to Reception until she is five. "When I had concerns about how Roman would cope in a mainstream school, our experience with Chickerell completely changed my mind. Seeing how being alongside other children has encouraged him to achieve has convinced me that this is absolutely the best setting for him and will be for our daughter, too."

Katie's experience has taught her that the best help comes from unexpected sources. "So many other schools said 'we can't help'. Chickerell said 'we can'."



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